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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,959	03/07/2000	Nancy Carrasco	96700/488	9663

7590 12/16/2003

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EXAMINER	
CANELLA, KAREN A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1642	28

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/519,959	CARRASCO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Karen A Canella	1642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) *1,2,6,8,9,29 and 30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 29 and 30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☒ Other: Notice to Comply

DETAILED ACTION

1. Please note that the examiner assigned to this application has changed.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 29 and 30 are pending and under consideration.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action..

4. This application contains sequence disclosures on page 16, lines 18, 19 and 22 that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825 for the reason(s) set forth on the attached Notice To Comply With Requirements For Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence And/Or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures. Appropriate correction is required.

5. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:
The signature of Inventor Irene Wapnir has no date.

6. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 30 recite "mgNIS". This is a laboratory designation coined by the inventor and unknown to the public at the time of filing. The metes and bounds of what constitutes mgNIS versus human thyroid NIS is unknown and not set forth in the specification.

7. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The instant method claims are reliant upon the identity of mgNIS. It is noted that the claims are rejected under 112, second paragraph for failing to distinctly define mgNIS. The sequence of hNIS is known. However, it is unknown if mgNIS is an allelic variant, splice variant, polymorphic variant, truncated or otherwise mutated sequence of hNIS. On page 16, line 22, the peptide 'NEDLLFFLGQKELE' was used to generate a monoclonal antibody to bind to the mgNIS protein. It is noted that this contiguous sequence is not comprised within the sequence of hNIS disclosed by Smanik et al (Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 1996, Vol. 226, pp. 339-345, provided as an attachment with the response of Dec 20, 2002), although residues 'LFFLGQKELE' are residues 612-621 of hNIS. Smanik et al (Endocrinology, 1997, Vol. 138, pp. 3555-3558) disclose two alternatively spliced form of hNIS (page 3457, second column, under the heading "An Alternatively spliced form of hNIS was identified"). Smanik et al (1997) disclose that the smaller form of hNIS results from alternative splicing of exon 4 to exon 6 skipping exon 5. Thus, an argument that the mgNIS is the same as the previously disclosed hNIS would not suffice to identify the structural attributes of mgNIS because the art recognizes that the hNIS mRNA transcript undergoes alternative splicing, thus there are multiple proteins encompassed within a genus of hNIS proteins. One of skill in the art would reasonably conclude that the disclosure of the structure of the hNIS protein does not provide a nexus to the structure or structures encompassed within the genus of "mgNIS" because the art recognizes that expression of splice variants and mutants are unpredictable. Thus, the disclosure of hNIS does not adequately describe the genus of mgNIS.

When given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the claims are dependent upon the mgNIS protein, or a genus of mgNIS proteins which are characterized only by function (sodium-iodide symporter). Although drawn to DNA arts, the findings in University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co., 119 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997) and Enzo Biochem, Inc. V. Gen-Probe Inc. are relevant to the instant claims. The Federal Circuit addressed the application of the written description requirement to DNA-related inventions in University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co., 119 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997). The court stated that "[a]

written description of an invention involving a chemical genus, like a description of a chemical species, 'requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, [or] chemical name,' of the claimed subject matter sufficient to distinguish it from other materials." Id. At 1567, 43 USPQ2d at 1405. The court also stated that a generic statement such as "vertebrate insulin cDNA" or "mammalian insulin cDNA" without more, is not an adequate written description of the genus because it does not distinguish the genus from others, except by function. It does not specifically define any of the genes that fall within its definition. It does not define any structural features commonly possessed by members of the genus that distinguish them from others. One skilled in the art therefore cannot, as one can do with a fully described genus, visualize or recognize the identity of the members of the genus. A definition by function does not suffice to define the genus because it is only an indication of what the gene does, rather than what it is. Id. At 1568, 43 USPQ2d at 1406. The court concluded that "naming a type of material generally known to exist, in the absence of knowledge as to what that material consists of, is not a description of that material." Id.

Finally, the court addressed the manner by which a genus of cDNAs might be described. "A description of a genus of cDNAs may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of cDNAs, defined by nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the genus or of a recitation of structural features common to the members of the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus." Id.

The Federal Circuit has recently clarified that a DNA molecule can be adequately described without disclosing its complete structure. See Enzo Biochem, Inc. V. Gen-Probe Inc., 296 F.3d 1316, 63 USPQ2d 1609 (Fed. Cir. 2002). The Enzo court adopted the standard that "the written description requirement can be met by 'show[ing] that an invention is complete by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics ....i.e., complete or partial structure, other physical and/or chemical properties, functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or some combination of such characteristics. " Id. At 1324, 63 USPQ2d at 1613 (emphasis omitted, bracketed material in original).

The inventions at issue in Lilly and Enzo were DNA constructs per se, the holdings of those cases are also applicable to claims such as those at issue here. A disclosure that does not

adequately describe a product itself logically cannot adequately describe a method of using that product.

Thus, the instant specification may provide an adequate written description of mgNIS, per Lilly, by structurally describing a representative number of mgNIS proteins or by describing "structural features common to the members of the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus." Alternatively, per Enzo, the specification can show that the claimed invention is complete "by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics, functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or some combination of such characteristics."

In this case, the specification does not describe the mgNIS protein required to practice the instant methods in a manner that satisfies either the Lilly or Enzo standards. The specification does not provide the complete structure of any mgNIS, nor does the specification provide any partial structure of such mgNIS, nor any physical or chemical characteristics of the mgNIS nor any functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between structure and function. The specification does not discloses a single mgNIS protein, not does the specification state that the mgNIS protein is the same as a previously identified hNIS splice variant. Thus, the specification does not provide an adequate written description of the mgNIS or a genus of mgNIS proteins required to practice the claimed invention. Since the specification fails to adequately describe the product on which the claimed methods rely, it also fails to adequately describe the claimed methods.

8. All other rejections and objections as set forth in Paper No. 22 are withdrawn.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen Canella whose telephone number is (703) 308-8362. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 308-3995. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Karen A. Canella, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner, Group 1642
12/12/03